Mathematics, BA

Honors

Honors in the Major

Students majoring in mathematics have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. Students must maintain a cumulative University of Iowa grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.33, as required by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; additionally, students must complete all requirements for the major and must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.40 in the major, a GPA set by the Department of Mathematics.

To graduate with honors in the major, students also must complete one of the following options.

Option 1

Students complete five upper-level mathematics courses as defined in "Upper-Level Mathematics Courses" under "Requirements." Mathematics courses (prefix MATH) numbered 6000 or above must be approved by the mathematics honors advisor in advance.

An honors research project may produce a research report but not a formal thesis. A research report will be counted as one upper-level math course towards option 1 by enrolling in MATH:3996 Individual Study and Honors in Mathematics for 3 s.h. A research report must be approved by the honors research project supervisor.

Option 2

Students complete three upper-level mathematics courses and write an honors thesis. A student who chooses this option must contact the Department of Mathematics honors advisor and find a faculty member who is willing to supervise their honors thesis project. The Department of Mathematics honors advisor will then appoint a thesis committee of at least two faculty members. The student will need to obtain preapproval at the beginning of their thesis project, midterm approval from the thesis committee, and pass a defense.

The Department of Mathematics encourages students to use their sole-authored or coauthored research papers as honors theses if the papers have been published, accepted, or submitted to a research journal. Satisfactory peer reviews or referee's reports may be accepted in lieu of preapproval and midterm approval.

It is recommended that students who earn honors in mathematics pursue the BS degree.

University of Iowa Honors Program

In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program. Visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the university's honors program. Honors in mathematics is awarded by the Department of Mathematics and is separate from the University of Iowa Honors Program.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the mathematics major. However, honors in mathematics can be applied toward UI Honors Program requirements.